

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CU-04 ACDA-19 EB-11

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 INRE-00 CCO-00 DRC-01 /165 W

----- 058586

R 071534Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6931

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI UNN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 2030

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, XA, XF

SUBJ: EYADEMA'S CRITICISM OF U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 214493 (NOTAL); (B) LOME 1973 (NOTAL); (C)
LOME 2011 (NOTAL); (D) LOME 1727 (NOTAL).

SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH ME 6 NOVEMBER PRESIDENT EYADEMA
PROFESSED ASTONISHMENT THAT SC RES 242 HAD OTHER ASPECTS
THAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL CALL (THIS DESPITE FACT FORMER
ISRAELI AMBASSADOR CLAIMED TO HAVE INFORMED HIM FULLY
ABOUT RES). HE INSISTED ON TOGO'S FRIENDSHIP FOR US,
ALTHOUGH HE REGRETTEED THAT US WAS CONCENTRATING ITS
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ON CERTAIN SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES
NOT INCLUDING TOGO. HE CRITICIZED ARAB BIAS TOWARD
SOVIETS AND REVEALED HIS GREAT PERSONAL ADMIRATION
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OF ISRAELI MILITARY PROWESS.

1. ON 6 NOVEMBER I REQUESTED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT EYADEMA TO MAKE DEMARCHE ENDORSED BY DEPT (REF A). THIRTY MINUTES LATER I WAS IN HIS OFFICE, PROBABLY, I LATER REALIZED, BECAUSE, THROUGH CAREFULLY LAID COMMENTS, INTENDED TO BE RELAYED TO HIM, HE KNEW THAT I WAS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BY HIS CRITICAL REFERENCE TO US IN HIS 26 OCTOBER SPEECH TO EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS (REF B). HE ALSO KNEW THAT I HAD TRIED TO SEE HIM IN THE ONE WORKDAY BETWEEN THAT SPEECH AND HIS DEPARTURE FOR LIBYA, HE HAVING APOLOGIZED AT AIRPORT THAT DAY FOR NOT HAVING RECEIVED ME BEFORE LEAVING.

2. I INTRODUCED SUBJECT BY SAYING I KNEW PRESIDENT COULD NOT HAVE MADE REMARKS CONTAINED IN HIS SPEECH TO PARLIAMENTARIANS AND LATER TO TRIPOLI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (REF C) IF HE HAD UNDERSTOOD AMERICAN POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST. EYADEMA IMMEDIATELY INTERRUPTED TO SAY THAT IT WAS PRECISELY BECAUSE ISRAEL HAD NOT FOR SIX YEARS OBEYED INJUNCTION OF SC RES 242 TO WITHDRAW FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 6-DAY WAR THAT TOGO HAD BEEN FORCED TO SUPPORT ARABS. SINCE EVERYONE KNEW ISRAEL COULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT US SUPPORT, US WAS EQUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATION OF SC RES 242, WHICH HAD BEEN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. I REPLIED THAT US HAD INDEED VOTED FOR SC RES 242 AND STILL SUPPORTED IT. WHAT WE AND ISRAEL HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT WAS ARAB INSISTENCE THAT ONE OF THE RESOLUTIONS'S FIVE MAJOR POINTS, WITHDRAWAL, BE IMPLEMENTED UNILATERALLY, WITHOUT ANY EFFORT ON PART OF ARABS TO IMPLEMENT OR EVEN EFFECTIVELY DISCUSS THE OTHER FOUR POINTS, WHICH WERE INEXTRICABLY AND INTENTIONALLY INTERWOVEN WITH WITHDRAWAL. I THEN READ TO PRESIDENT OPERATIVE PARAS 2 AND 3 OF RES IN THEIR ENTIRETY, STRESSING PARTICULARLY THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES IN AREA TO POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE, SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES, AND GUARANTEE OF FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION.

4. EYADEMA EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT THAT THERE WERE OTHER ASPECTS OF SC RES OF WHICH HE HAD BEEN IN TOTAL IGNORANCE. IF HE HAD KNOWN OF THEM, HE SAID, HE WOULD HAVE MODIFIED HIS POSITION. (ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ASSURED ME BEFORE RUPTURE THAT HE HAD FULLY INFORMED EYADEMA OF OTHER ASPECTS OF SC RES 242, CONFIDENTIAL

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ALTHOUGH I AM NOT CERTAIN THIS WAS BEFORE PRESIDENT CALLED HIM IN ON 12 SEPTEMBER TO DEMAND ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, AT WHICH TIME DECISION TO BREAK RELATIONS MAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE.) EYADEMA ADDED THAT NOT ONLY HE BUT MANY OTHER AFRICAN PRESIDENTS WERE AWARE ONLY OF WITHDRAWAL ASPECT OF 242. (I INTERJECTED HERE THAT I WAS SURE THAT THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE FULLY AWARE OF OTHER ASPECTS.) HE SAID IT WAS A PITY THAT ISRAELI PROPAGANDA HAD BEEN SO INFERIOR TO THAT OF ARABS.

5. EYADEMA THEN SAID THAT HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT TOGO CONSIDERED FRANCE, GERMANY AND UNITED STATES ITS FRIENDS, EVEN THOUGH US HAD FAVORED CERTAIN AFRICAN (PRESUMABLY SO-CALLED AID CONCENTRATION) COUNTRIES BY CONCENTRATING ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE EFFORTS ON THEM, TO TOGO'S DETRIMENT. HE SAID IT WAS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH PRO-SOVIET BIAS OF ARABS AND MANY OTHER SO-CALLED NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, AND THEIR EFFORTS TO ATTACK US (REF D), THAT HE HAD LEFT ALGIERS ONE DAY EARLY WITHOUT EVEN DELIVERING HIS PREPARED SPEECH.

6 I THEN REVIEWED CURRENT SITUATION IN WHICH US MAKING EVERY EFFORT BRING REAL PEACE TO MIDDLE EAST. TO MAKE POINT THAT ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT WAS A DANGER TO ENTIRE WORLD AND NOT TO BE DEALT WITH LIGHTLY, I REFERRED TO FACT THAT INDICATIONS THAT SOVIETS INTENDED SEND TROOPS TO AREA HAD RESULTED IN TEMPORARY WORLDWIDE US MILITARY ALERT. HIS REACTION WAS THAT SOVIETS COULD NOT CONFRONT US ANYWHERE, SINCE US WAS STRONGER. HE REFUSED TO ACCEPT MY CONTENTION THAT THERE WAS RELATIVE MILITARY PARITY, INSISTING THAT US WAS TECHNOLOGICALLY SUPERIOR AND THUS STRONGER.

7 COMMENT: EYADEMA ALWAYS SOUNDS MORE REASONABLE THAN HIS ACTIONS INDICATE HIM TO BE. DESPITE HIS PROFESSED ASTONISHMENT AT LEARNING THERE WAS MORE TO SC RES 242 THAN WITHDRAWAL, WE HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT THE ISRAELI AMBASSADORS ENLIGHTENED HIM ON THIS SUBJECT, PROBABLY MANY TIMES OVER. ALTHOUGH IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT HE DID NOT LISTEN. THE FUNNY THING IS THAT, I SUSPECT, EYADEMA IS AT HEART JUST AS PRO-ISRAELI AS ARE THE MOJORITY OF EDUCATED, CATHOLICIZED LOMEANS. I STILL THINK THERE WAS SOME TRUTH IN HIS POSTURE OF RESENTMENT OF ARAB PRESSURES, AS REVEALED IN HIS STATEMENT TO ME ON HIS RETURN FROM THE ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (REF D). IN MY 6 NOVEMBER MEETING WITH HIM HIS FACE LIGHTED UP WHEN I MENTIONED THE TRAPPED EGYPTIAN

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3RD ARMY. "AREN'T THOSE ISRAELIS GO
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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